



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
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Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4788

/ August 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your emails of 6 and 13 June 2023, to the Ministry of Defence and then transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Unfortunately, these requests were not actioned by staff on their receipt. Apologies for any inconvenience this late response may have caused.

With respect to your request of 6 June 2023 below:

The New Zealand Defence Force Support to Ukraine - August 2022 document on the NZDF publications page notes that "almost 2000kg of medical supplies destined for Ukraine were transported by the RNZAF C-130 Hercules from Malta to a distribution centre in Eastern Europe before being delivered into Ukraine."

Questions:

- 1. Does this mean that NZDF forces were in Ukraine, or were the supplies taken from the distribution centre in eastern Europe into Ukraine by another state?*
- 2. If NZ forces were in Ukraine on this occasion, was this an isolated occurrence, or has it happened more than once? If the latter, please provide details.*
- 3. In which eastern European country was the distribution centre, mentioned in the above quote, located?*

New Zealand Defence Force personnel did not deliver the supplies direct to Ukraine, so those personnel were not in Ukraine. Information concerning the location of the distribution centre is withheld in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), as was noted on the coversheet accompanying the release of that Cabinet material.

With respect to your request of 13 June 2023 below:

- 1. Has intelligence collected during Operation Gallant Phoenix contributed or led to military operations? If so, please provide details.*
- 2. What does the NZDF analyst at the Counter Terrorism Information Facility in Singapore do?*
- 3. What relationship does NZ's provision of the NZDF analyst to the Counter Terrorism Information Facility in Singapore have to NZ's participation in Operation Gallant Phoenix?*

Publicly available information concerning Operation Gallant Phoenix, and the New Zealand Defence Force analyst at the Counter Terrorism Information Facility in Singapore, is available online. Specific details are withheld in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the OIA.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF